

June 12, 1913.

A meeting of the Board of Public Works was this day held at their office in the Union Trust Building, Baltimore.

Present: Governor Goldsborough, Comptroller Harrington and Treasurer Vandiver.

The Governor read a letter from Mr. Thomas B. Webster in which he requested a meeting of the Board to consider some claims of the Oystermen of Somerset and Dorchester County as to the condition of some of the oyster surveys in those two counties, and stated that the meeting was called principally for the purpose of hearing these oystermen.

There were present representing the oystermen, W. Laird Henry of Cambridge, Md. and James E. Ellegood, Salisbury, Md.

These two gentlemen addressed the Board of Public Works and also the members of the Shell Fish Commission who were present upon request, and contended that there was a large area in Tangier Sound, and in the Bay and in Fishing Bay which by the survey of the Shell Fish Commission was subject to lease which was in fact natural rock. The matter was discussed by these gentlemen at length and in great detail, and after a careful consideration, the following resolution was passed:

WHEREAS such complaint has been made to the Board of Public Works as to convince it that a re-examination should be made of certain areas claimed as natural oyster beds, bars and rocks in the waters of the State which have not been included in the survey made thereof by or under the direction of the Shell Fish Commissioners of Maryland as authorized by the General Assembly of Maryland under Chapter 711 of the Acts of 1906.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Public Works request the Board of Shell Fish Commissioners upon complaint of any oysterman or Association of oystermen, to investigate said complaint and if the evidence submitted shall justify such complaint to make an investigation of the area claimed by the said Oysterman, or Association of Oystermen to have been improperly omitted from the area designated as natural oyster bottom by said survey.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in making such re-examination, the oysterman, or Association of Oystermen, making the complaint

shall be given an opportunity to have a representative or representatives present.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if such reexamination shall indicate that the area reexamined was improperly omitted from said survey, and is, on the contrary, natural oyster bottom that in that case the Board of Shell Fish Commissioners be requested to use every means in their power to prevent the leasing of such bottom until such time as the Legislature of Maryland shall have had the opportunity to confer upon said Shell Fish Commissioners the authority to correct said survey so that no natural oyster bottom shall be subject to leasing.

Upon the reading of the Resolution the Governor stated that the Shell Fish Commission would send to the Associations copies of the surveys in the counties of Dorchester and Somerset, and they were to indicate upon said surveys the land which they contended were natural beds and bars, and in event there should be an application to lease the same, that before leasing the Shell Fish Commission would reexamine the territory upon a notice to them, and would in every way protect their rights.

A letter was read from Attorney General Poe dated May 16, with reference to the bill of Jos. F. Goldsmith for \$225.00, and upon motion of Treasurer Vandiver, seconded by the Governor, it was resolved that the Board of Public Works hereby approves the bill of said Jos. F. Goldsmith upon the recommendation of Attorney General Edgar Allan Poe, for \$225.00, being fee for the examination of title to land covered by a portion of the State's Steam Heating plant, and that the same be paid out of the contingent fund of the Board of Public Works.

Upon motion of Gen. Vandiver, seconded by the Governor, it was unanimously resolved as follows:

RESOLVED that the Governor be and he is hereby authorized and empowered to make a contract with the Western Union Telegraph Company for the installation and maintenance of electric clocks in the State House and Court of Appeals Building, or in his discretion to have the present system of clocks repaired; that the whole matter be left to the Governor to determine the

the best thing to be done with reference to the situation, in order that the present unsatisfactory condition be remedied.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Robert S. Graham

Secretary.

